

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /080 R

DRAFTED BY ARA - MR. DEVINE:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA - MR. DEVINE
ARA/AND - MR. BARNEBEY (DRAFT)
ARA/AND - MR. ALLITTO (DRAFT)
PM/SAS - MR. TITUS (INFO)
DOD/ISA - CAPT MAY (INFO)
ACDA/APA - MS. WATSON (INFO)
-----151338Z 009089 /41

R 142144Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT:THIRD DEMARCHE DESIGNED TO EASE TENSIONS IN THE
ANDES.

REFS: STATE 098424; STATE 204793

1. IN THIRD DIPLOMATIC DEMARCHE DESIGNED TO EASE WAR
FEARS AND TENSIONS IN THE ANDES, ACTING DEPUTY ASSIS-
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TANT SECRETARY DEVINE ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING ARA/AND
OFFICE DIRECTOR BARNEBEY AND ECUADOR DESK OFFICER
ALLITTO MET ON MAY 11 WITH AMBASSADOR GUSTAVO YCAZA OF
ECUADOR AND MINISTER-COUNSELOR LUCINDO ALMEIDA.

2. FOR OPENERS, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CONGRATULATED
AMBASSADOR YCAZA UPON ECUADOR'S FINE HUMAN RIGHTS

RECORD AND SAID THAT IN AN ERA WHEN THIS CAN BE A PROBLEM IN SO MANY COUNTRIES IT IS REASSURING TO SEE ABSENCE OF SUCH PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR. AMBASSADOR ACCEPTED THIS COMPLIMENT GRACIOUSLY AND SAID ABSENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM WAS CLEAR REFLECTION OF HIS COUNTRY'S BASIC PHILOSOPHY. WE REPLIED THAT WE WILL ALWAYS WELCOME ECUADOR'S IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE CAN COLLABORATE IN ADVANCING CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE.

3. AS A SECOND POSITIVE NOTE, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS THEN TOLD AMBASSADOR YCAZA OF CONSIDERABLE LEVEL OF INTEREST AND APPRECIATION WITH WHICH MANY IN US VIEW ECUADOR'S INTENTION AND RESOLVE TO EFFECT RETURN OF GOVERNMENT POWER TO CIVILIAN HANDS IN JANUARY 1978. AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT THIS TIMETABLE IS STILL IN EFFECT.

4. TURNING TO INTRA-ANDEAN SITUATION, DEVINE THEN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) WE HAD APPRECIATED VISIT OF VICE FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE AYALA AND FELT THAT WE LEARNED A LOT FROM CONVERSATION WITH HIM AND HIS TRAVELING COMPANIONS.

B) SINCE THEN WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED EVENTS OF LAST DECEMBER AND JANUARY AND WAR FEARS AND TENSIONS TO WHICH THEY GAVE RISE. WE HAVE COME TO INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION THAT AMONG ROOT CAUSES OF THAT UNDESIRABLE SITUATION WAS A CONSIDERABLE LEVEL OF INTRA-ANDEAN
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MISPERCEPTION AND MISINTERPRETATION.

C) WE RECOGNIZE AND COMPREHEND ECUADOR'S STATED CONCERN OVER PERU, THAT COUNTRY'S ARMS BUILD-UP, AND ITS POSSIBLE INTENTIONS. WHILE ARMS BUILD-UP IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT, WE DO NOT SHARE IN ITS ENTIRETY ECUADOR'S READING OF PERUVIAN INTENTIONS.

D) WE SEE ECUADOR-PERU RELATIONSHIP AS PART OF A LARGER ANDEAN PROBLEM INVOLVING ALSO BOLIVIA AND CHILE.

E) USG IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE AMERICAS. THIS OF COURSE INCLUDES IMPORTANT REGION OF THE ANDES.

F) IN VIEW OF THIS COMMITMENT, WE WANT TO BE A POSITIVE FACTOR AND TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT WE CAN TO PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN THE AREA. WE HOPE THAT SUCH INTEREST AND DISPOSITION ON OUR PART WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY

THOSE CONCERNED WITH THIS SITUATION.

G) AS ECUADOR CONSIDERS ITS OWN DEFENSE NEEDS, WE HOPE THAT NOT ONLY COMPARATIVE ARMS LEVELS BUT ALSO COMMITMENT TO PRESERVATION OF PEACE BY OTHER NATIONS MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. WE WOULD HOPE THAT USG ATTITUDE WILL BE SEEN AS POSITIVE FACTOR IN THIS EQUATION.

H) IN THIS SAME SENSE, WE HOPE ECUADOR WILL FEEL FREE TO SHARE WITH US ITS OWN VIEWS AND FUTURE PERCEPTIONS

AS OCCASION MAY WARRANT.

5. AMBASSADOR YCAZA ACCEPTED PRESENTATION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND THEN COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

A) ECUADOR IS INDEED A PEACE-LOVING NATION AND HAS NO
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DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANY TENSIONS IN ANDEAN REGION.

B) AS SUCH, IT WELCOMES POSITIVE ATTITUDES FOR PEACE ON PART OF OTHER NATIONS AND PRESENTATION JUST MADE WAS THEREFORE HIGHLY ACCEPTABLE ONE.

C) DID REFERENCE TO "LARGER ANDEAN PROBLEM" MEAN THAT USG ACCEPTS THESIS THAT PERU NEEDS ARMS LEVEL SUFFICIENT TO DEAL WITH THREAT FROM FIVE CONTIGUOUS NEIGHBORS? (IN DISCLAIMING ANY SUCH IMPLICATION, DEVINE REMINDED AMBASSADOR THAT WHEN CITING THIS POINT OF VIEW DURING AYALA VISIT HE HAD VERY CLEARLY IDENTIFIED IT AS PERUVIAN--NOT USG--ARGUMENT. AMBASSADOR YCAZA AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE.)

D) USG INTEREST IN PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN THE AREA IS A WELCOME FACTOR WHICH GOE WILL BEAR IN MIND. THERE WILL DOUBTLESS BE OCCASIONS WHEN ECUADOR WILL TAKE US UP ON OUR OFFER TO CONSULT AND COMPARE PERCEPTIONS OF DELICATE SITUATIONS.

6. AS CONVERSATION DREW TO A CLOSE, AMBASSADOR YCAZA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO TABLE TWO ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS, THOUGH NOT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPLY THAT HE EXPECTED DEFINITIVE ANSWER:

A) ECUADOR IS RENEWING ITS REQUEST FOR USG CONSIDERATION OF MAKING I-HAWK MISSILE AVAILABLE TO IT FOR AIR DEFENSE NEEDS; AND

B) AT SOME APPROPRIATE FUTURE TIME, ECUADOR'S FOREIGN

MINISTER STILL HOPES TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN
INTEREST OF HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
OF COMMON PROBLEMS.

7. DEVINE REPLIED THAT:
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A) WE HAD NO ANSWER READY YET RE THE REQUEST FOR THE
I-HAWK;

B) WE ARE AWARE OF MINISTER'S INTEREST IN SUCH A MEETING
BUT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE IS NOT YET DISCERNIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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